

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original) A method of processing a signaling message received from a service application and intended for delivery to a network element having a point code, comprising:
retrieving, from a data store, an indication of the network type associated with the point code;
processing the signaling message through one of a plurality of protocol stack layers in accordance with the retrieved network type.
2. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the step of processing further comprises processing the signaling message in accordance with any one of message transport part layer 3 (MTP3) and MTP3 user adaptation layer (M3UA).
3. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 ~~or 2~~, further comprising populating the data store with information relating to the network type associated with each point code.
4. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein the step of populating the data store is performed automatically.
5. (Original) Apparatus for processing a signaling message received from a service application and intended for delivery to a network element having a point code, comprising:
retrieval means for from a data store an indication of the network type associated with the point code;
a processor for processing the signaling message through one of a plurality of protocol stack layers in accordance with the retrieved network type.

6. (Original) Apparatus according to claim 5, wherein the processor is adapted to process the signaling message in accordance with any one of message transport part layer 3 (MTP3) and MTP3 user adaptation layer (M3UA).

7. (Currently amended) Apparatus according to claim 5 ~~or 6~~, further comprising automatic populating means for populating the data store with information relating to the network type associated with each point code.